Application Serial No.: 10/705,501

Amendment dated: July 17, 2007 Reply to Office Action of: April 6, 2007

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Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Any claims that have been canceled are to be considered canceled without prejudice as to their

resubmission:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A parison pinching system for attaching to first and second mold halves,

each mold half having first and second cavities, the system comprising:

a first pinch bar for attaching to the first cavity of the first mold half, the first pinch bar of

the first cavity of the first mold half having a surface and a protrusion that extends from the

surface;

a first pinch bar for attaching to the second cavity of the first mold half, the first pinch bar

of the second cavity of the first mold half having a surface and a protrusion that extends from the

surface;

a second pinch bar for attaching to the first cavity of the second mold half, the second

pinch bar of the first cavity of the second mold half having a surface and a protrusion that

extends from the surface; and

a second pinch bar for attaching to the second cavity of the second mold half, the second

pinch bar of the second cavity of the second mold half having a surface and a protrusion that

extends from the surface,

wherein the protrusion of the first pinch bar of the first cavity of the first mold half and

the protrusion of the second pinch bar of the first cavity of the second mold half are constructed

and arranged to positioned for pinching and separate a parison when the first and second mold

halves close, and

the protrusion of the first pinch bar of the second cavity of the first mold half and the

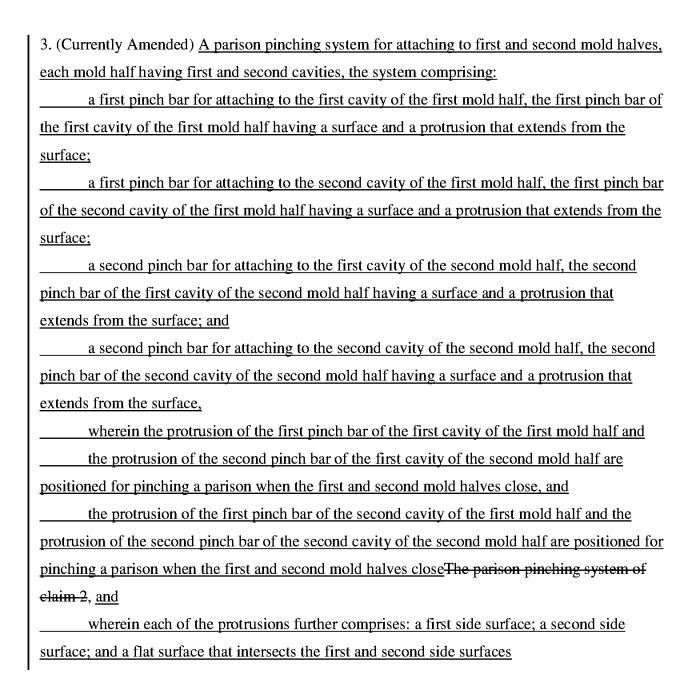
protrusion of the second pinch bar of the second cavity of the second mold half are constructed

and arranged topositioned for pinching and separate a parison when the first and second mold

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halves close.

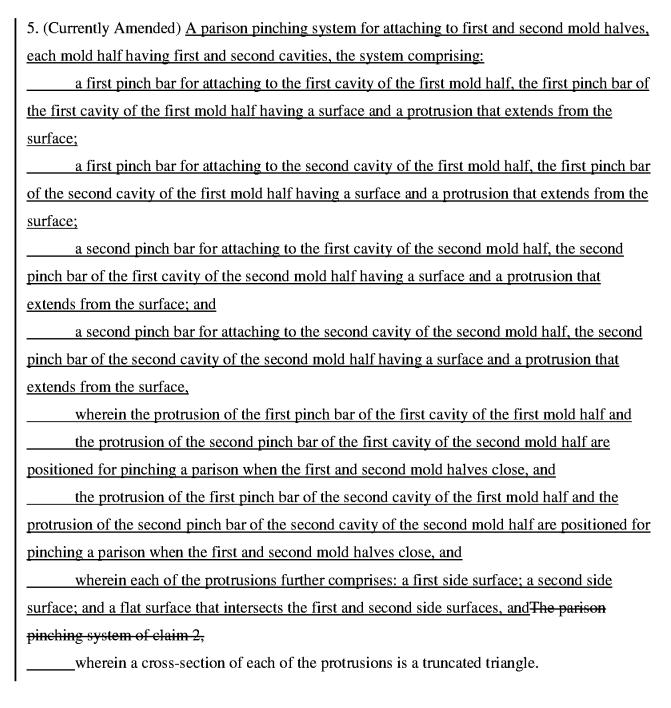
2. (Original) The parison pinching system of claim 1, wherein each of the protrusions further comprises: a first side surface; a second side surface; and a flat surface that intersects the first and second side surfaces.



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wherein each flat surface is substantially parallel to an inner mold face of each pinch bar's respective mold half. 4. (Currently Amended) A parison pinching system for attaching to first and second mold halves, each mold half having first and second cavities, the system comprising: a first pinch bar for attaching to the first cavity of the first mold half, the first pinch bar of the first cavity of the first mold half having a surface and a protrusion that extends from the surface; a first pinch bar for attaching to the second cavity of the first mold half, the first pinch bar of the second cavity of the first mold half having a surface and a protrusion that extends from the surface; a second pinch bar for attaching to the first cavity of the second mold half, the second pinch bar of the first cavity of the second mold half having a surface and a protrusion that extends from the surface; and a second pinch bar for attaching to the second cavity of the second mold half, the second pinch bar of the second cavity of the second mold half having a surface and a protrusion that extends from the surface, wherein the protrusion of the first pinch bar of the first cavity of the first mold half and the protrusion of the second pinch bar of the first cavity of the second mold half are positioned for pinching a parison when the first and second mold halves close, and the protrusion of the first pinch bar of the second cavity of the first mold half and the protrusion of the second pinch bar of the second cavity of the second mold half are positioned for pinching a parison when the first and second mold halves close, and wherein each of the protrusions further comprises: a first side surface; a second side surface; and a flat surface that intersects the first and second side surfaces, and The parison pinching system of claim 2, wherein each flat surface is substantially coplanar to or extends beyond an inner mold face of each pinch bar's respective mold half.

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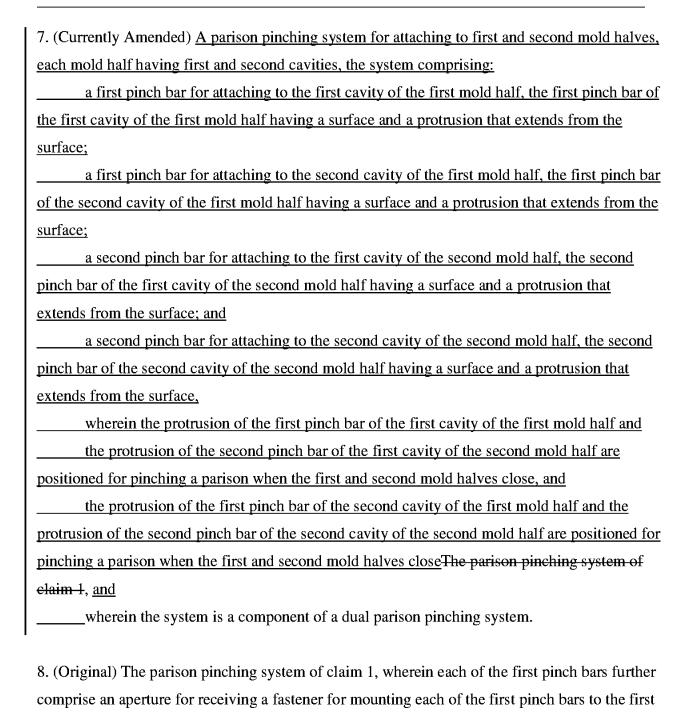


6. (Original) The parison pinching system of claim 2, wherein the first and second side surfaces are substantially perpendicular.

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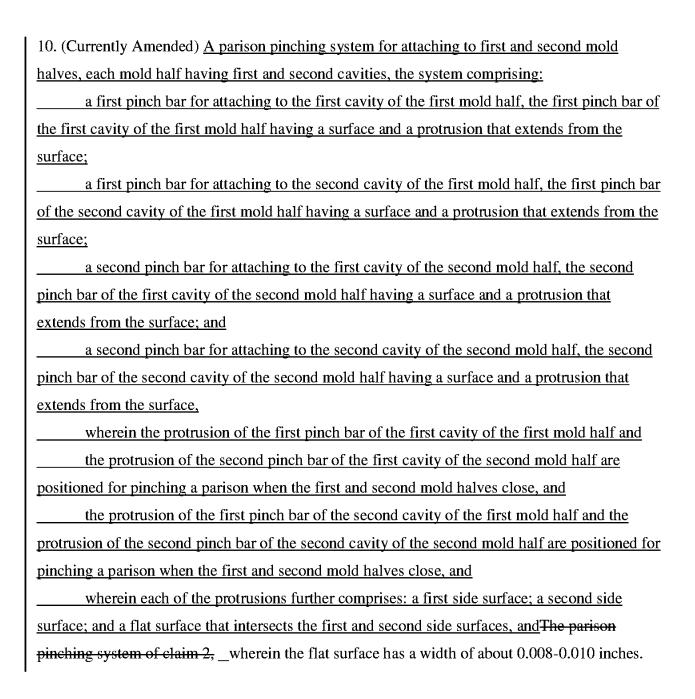
9. (Original) The parison pinching system of claim 1, wherein each pinch bar adheres to the

for mounting each of the second pinch bars to the second mold half.

mold half and each of the second pinch bars further comprise an aperture for receiving a fastener

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respective first and second mold halves.



11. (Original) The parison pinching system of claim 10, wherein the flat surface has a width of about 0.009 inches.

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12. (Currently Amended) An apparatus comprising:

a mold having first and second halves;

a first pinch bar attached to the first cavity of the first mold half, the first pinch bar of the

first cavity of the first mold half having a surface and a protrusion that extends from the surface;

a first pinch bar attached to the second cavity of the first mold half, the first pinch bar of

the second cavity of the first mold half having a surface and a protrusion that extends from the

surface;

a second pinch bar attached to the first cavity of the second mold half, the second pinch

bar of the first cavity of the second mold half having a surface and a protrusion that extends from

the surface; and

a second pinch bar attached to the second cavity of the second mold half, the second

pinch bar of the second cavity of the second mold half having a surface and a protrusion that

extends from the surface,

wherein the protrusion of the first pinch bar of the first cavity of the first mold half and

the protrusion of the second pinch bar of the first cavity of the second mold half are constructed

and arranged to positioned for pinching and separate a parison when the first and second mold

halves close, and the protrusion of the first pinch bar of the second cavity of the first mold half

and the protrusion of the second pinch bar of the second cavity of the second mold half are

constructed and arranged topositioned for pinching and separate a parison when the first and

second mold halves close.

13. (Original) The apparatus of claim 12, wherein each of the protrusions further comprises: a

first side surface; a second side surface; and a flat surface that intersects the first and second side

surfaces.

14. (Currently Amended) An apparatus comprising:

a mold having first and second halves;

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a first pinch bar attached to the first cavity of the first mold half, the first pinch bar of the first cavity of the first mold half having a surface and a protrusion that extends from the surface; a first pinch bar attached to the second cavity of the first mold half, the first pinch bar of the second cavity of the first mold half having a surface and a protrusion that extends from the surface; a second pinch bar attached to the first cavity of the second mold half, the second pinch bar of the first cavity of the second mold half having a surface and a protrusion that extends from the surface; and a second pinch bar attached to the second cavity of the second mold half, the second pinch bar of the second cavity of the second mold half having a surface and a protrusion that extends from the surface, wherein the protrusion of the first pinch bar of the first cavity of the first mold half and the protrusion of the second pinch bar of the first cavity of the second mold half are positioned for pinching a parison when the first and second mold halves close, and the protrusion of the first pinch bar of the second cavity of the first mold half and the protrusion of the second pinch bar of the second cavity of the second mold half are positioned for pinching a parison when the first and second mold halves close The apparatus of claim 13, wherein each of the protrusions further comprises: a first side surface; a second side surface; and a flat surface that intersects the first and second side surfaces; and wherein each flat surface is substantially parallel to an inner mold face of each pinch bar's respective mold half. 15. (Currently Amended) An apparatus comprising: a mold having first and second halves; a first pinch bar attached to the first cavity of the first mold half, the first pinch bar of the first cavity of the first mold half having a surface and a protrusion that extends from the surface; a first pinch bar attached to the second cavity of the first mold half, the first pinch bar of the second cavity of the first mold half having a surface and a protrusion that extends from the surface;

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a second pinch bar attached to the first cavity of the second mold half, the second pinch bar of the first cavity of the second mold half having a surface and a protrusion that extends from the surface; and a second pinch bar attached to the second cavity of the second mold half, the second pinch bar of the second cavity of the second mold half having a surface and a protrusion that extends from the surface, wherein the protrusion of the first pinch bar of the first cavity of the first mold half and the protrusion of the second pinch bar of the first cavity of the second mold half are positioned for pinching a parison when the first and second mold halves close, and the protrusion of the first pinch bar of the second cavity of the first mold half and the protrusion of the second pinch bar of the second cavity of the second mold half are positioned for pinching a parison when the first and second mold halves close, wherein each of the protrusions further comprises: a first side surface; a second side surface; and a flat surface that intersects the first and second side surfaces; and The apparatus of claim 13, wherein each flat surface is substantially coplanar to or extends beyond an inner mold face of each pinch bar's respective mold half. 16. (Currently Amended) An apparatus comprising: a mold having first and second halves: a first pinch bar attached to the first cavity of the first mold half, the first pinch bar of the first cavity of the first mold half having a surface and a protrusion that extends from the surface; a first pinch bar attached to the second cavity of the first mold half, the first pinch bar of the second cavity of the first mold half having a surface and a protrusion that extends from the surface; a second pinch bar attached to the first cavity of the second mold half, the second pinch bar of the first cavity of the second mold half having a surface and a protrusion that extends from the surface; and

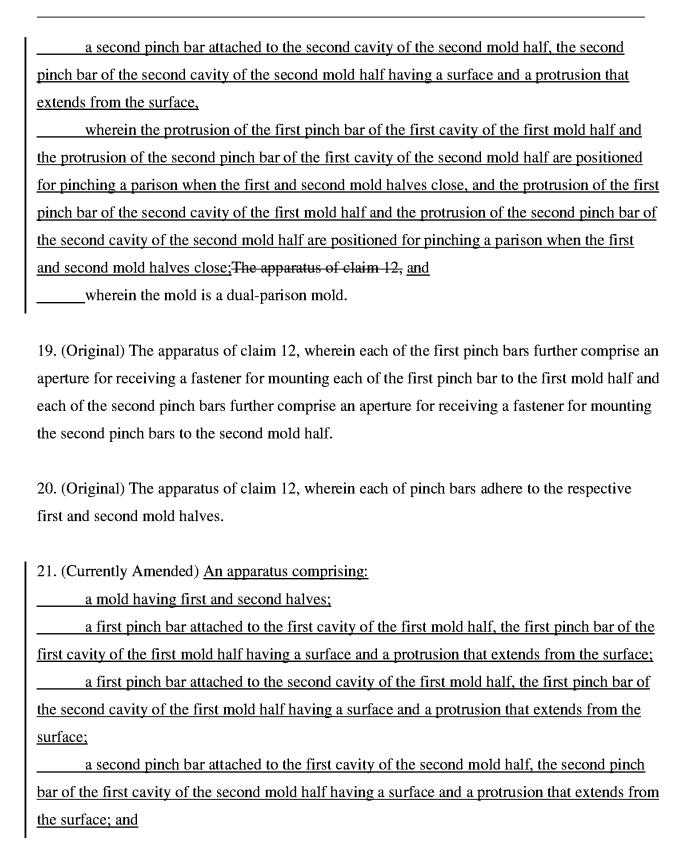
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a second pinch bar attached to the second cavity of the second mold half, the second pinch bar of the second cavity of the second mold half having a surface and a protrusion that extends from the surface, wherein the protrusion of the first pinch bar of the first cavity of the first mold half and the protrusion of the second pinch bar of the first cavity of the second mold half are positioned for pinching a parison when the first and second mold halves close, and the protrusion of the first pinch bar of the second cavity of the first mold half and the protrusion of the second pinch bar of the second cavity of the second mold half are positioned for pinching a parison when the first and second mold halves close, wherein each of the protrusions further comprises: a first side surface; a second side surface; and a flat surface that intersects the first and second side surfaces; and The apparatus of claim 13, __wherein a cross-section of each of the protrusions is a truncated triangle. 17. (Original) The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the first and second side surfaces are substantially perpendicular. 18. (Currently Amended) An apparatus comprising: a mold having first and second halves; a first pinch bar attached to the first cavity of the first mold half, the first pinch bar of the first cavity of the first mold half having a surface and a protrusion that extends from the surface; a first pinch bar attached to the second cavity of the first mold half, the first pinch bar of the second cavity of the first mold half having a surface and a protrusion that extends from the surface; a second pinch bar attached to the first cavity of the second mold half, the second pinch bar of the first cavity of the second mold half having a surface and a protrusion that extends from the surface; and

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a second pinch bar attached to the second cavity of the second mold half, the second pinch bar of the second cavity of the second mold half having a surface and a protrusion that extends from the surface,

wherein the protrusion of the first pinch bar of the first cavity of the first mold half and the protrusion of the second pinch bar of the first cavity of the second mold half are positioned for pinching a parison when the first and second mold halves close, and the protrusion of the first pinch bar of the second cavity of the first mold half and the protrusion of the second pinch bar of the second cavity of the second mold half are positioned for pinching a parison when the first and second mold halves close,

wherein each of the protrusions further comprises: a first side surface; a second side surface; and a flat surface that intersects the first and second side surfaces; and

The apparatus of claim 13, ___wherein the flat surface has a width of about 0.008-0.010 inches.

- 22. (Original) The apparatus of claim 21, wherein the flat surface has a width of about 0.009 inches.
- 23. (Currently Amended) A method for pinching parison on a high-speed wheel machine having molds with first and second mold halves, each mold half having first and second cavities, the first cavity of the first mold half having a first pinch bar, the second cavity of the first mold half having a first pinch bar, the first cavity of the second mold half having a second pinch bar, and the second cavity of the second mold half having a second pinch bar, the method comprising the steps of:

extruding parison between the first cavity of the first mold half and the first cavity of the second mold half;

extruding parison between the second cavity of the first mold half and the second cavity of the second mold half; and

pinching <u>and separating</u> the parison between protrusions extending from each pinch bar by moving the mold halves toward each other, such that the parison is pinched <u>and separated</u> between a flat surface on each protrusion.

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24. (Original) The method according to 23, wherein each of the flat surfaces is connected to the respective pinch bar by a first and a second side surface.

25. (Canceled).